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Annual Report

—OF THE—

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1940

By A. G. GLASS, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health

FARNWORTH :
J. WHATMOUGH, PRINTER, ELLESMORE STREET
1941

To the Chairman and Members of the
Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

In my last Annual Report I referred to Circular 2067 of the Ministry of Health which required reports to be cut down to the minimum, only urgent matters being dealt with. The same restrictions are in force for the present report, which is therefore a mere outline of the work done during the year.

In spite of war conditions all the medical services of the town were carried on as usual.

The Infantile Mortality Rate of 53.4 creates a new low record, and is a satisfactory commentary on the present time of stress and strain.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A. G. GLASS.

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman : ALDERMAN J. HEATHCOTE.

Vice-Chairman : COUNCILLOR M. P. MCGRATH.

Members :

The Mayor (Alderman J. Stevenson, J.P.)

Alderman (Rev.) J. Wilcockson, J.P.

Councillor A. Hindley

„	H. G. Holland
„	R. H. Rowlands, C.C.
„	R. H. Urmson, J.P.
„	A. H. R. Willis
„	J. Kirkman
„	P. Helme
„	S. Bowling
„	J. Almond

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman : COUNCILLOR R. H. ROWLANDS, C.C.

Vice-Chairman : The MAYORESS (MRS. E. STEVENSON)

Members :

Alderman (Rev.) J. Wilcockson, J.P.

Councillor Beck

Alderman Heathcote

Alderman Jones

Councillor Kirkman

Alderman McManus

Alderman Seddon, J.P.

Councillor McGrath

„ Willis

„ Smith

„ Almond

Co-opted Members :

Mrs. Cooke, J.P.

Mrs. Cooper

Mrs. Jones

Mrs. Scott

Mrs. Wilcockson

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area = 1504 statute acres.

Population = Census, 1931 ... 28,717
Estimated, 1940 (middle) ... 26,650.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

BIRTHS :

		Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	...	405	204	201
Illegitimate	...	7	4	3
	Total	412	208	204
Birth-rate per 1,000 population		15.4		
Still Births	...	9	5	4
Rate per 1,000 Total Births...		21.3		

DEATHS :

Crude Death-rate per 1,000 population	...	14.1
Adjusted Death-rate per 1,000 population	...	14.52

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age :

Legitimate	...	22	16	6
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
Infantile Mortality Rate	...	53.4		

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)...	...	38
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping cough (all ages)	...	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)...	2	

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1940.

Cancer	...	...	...	...	38
Cerebro spinal fever	...	...	...	...	1
Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	1
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	3
Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	...	2
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	14
Tuberculosis of respiratory system					14
Other tuberculous diseases					2
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	1
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	3
Heart disease	...	...	...	...	83
Other circulatory diseases...					13
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	48
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	15

Other respiratory diseases	...	...	3
Other digestive diseases	...	...	12
Nephritis	...	...	8
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	35
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...	14
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	5
Road traffic accidents	...	...	4
Suicide	...	...	4
Other deaths from violence	...	...	9
Other defined diseases	...	...	44
Total		...	377

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

(a) Medical :

Medical Officer of Health	... Alexander G. Glass, M.A., M.D., D.P.H. (also M.O.H. Kearsley U.D.C.)
Ante-natal Clinic	... R. Newton, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.O.G.
Puerperal pyrexia	... James Scott, M.B., Ch.B. (as required)
Ophthalmic Surgeon	... James Ratcliffe, M.B., Ch.B. (also School Oculist, (resigned March) John Morrison, M.B. Ch.B. (appointed March)
Aurist	... G. Gordon Mowat B.A., M.B., F.R.C.S. (also School Aurist)
Dental Officer	... G. C. Royley, L.D.S. (also School Dental Officer)

(b) Others :

Cheif Sanitary Inspector	... H. T. Ogden, M.S.I.A.
Sanitary Inspectors	... S. Seel, A.R.S.I. (also Market Superintendent) A. H. S. Lewis, M.S.I.A.
Health Visitors	... Miss A. Pendlebury, A.R.S.I. Certs M.C.W. (also School Nurses) and C.M.B. Mrs. H. Cunliffe, S.R.N. Miss C. I. Grant (retired, 31-5-40) Miss J. Daniels, (appointed 1-6-40, resigned 30-9-40) Miss A. B. Ecroyd, (resigned 30-8-40) ,, P. Law, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. (R.S.I.) (appointed 1-9-40)

Miss H. E. S. Holmes, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.
(R.S.I.), (appointed 1-10-40)
Clerks.....T. Shaw (part time)
Miss J. Harrison (part time)

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

- (a) General. No change.
- (b) Infectious Diseases. No change.

MIDWIVES.

No change.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

No change.

HOSPITALS FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

(1) Smallpox.

Ainsworth Hospital, with whom arrangements have existed for the reception of cases of smallpox, was taken over by the Government for the treatment of cases of minor infectious disease occurring in billeted households for war evacuees. Ainsworth has arranged for any smallpox cases from Farnworth to be admitted to Astley Sanatorium.

(2) Other Infectious Diseases.

Arrangements still exist with Salford Corporation for admission of cases of infectious disease. As Ladywell Sanatorium had to be evacuated at the beginning of hostilities, Salford had to find alternative accommodation in other hospitals. Bolton Corporation has kindly agreed to take some of our cases.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

As before.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

As before.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

As before.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

As before.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Accommodation at the end of 1940—

Number of privy middens	...	...	...	5
,,	closets attached to these middens	...	...	13
,,	pail closets	...	...	5
,,	fresh water closets	...	...	8851
,,	waste water closets	...	...	296
,,	dry ashpits (excluding middens)	...	...	Nil
,,	movable ashbins for refuse	...	...	8456
,,	houses on water carriage system	...	...	8249

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE. As before.

TIPS. As before.

Sanitary Inspections during 1940 (including Housing).

No. of premises visited, 1876.

Defects or nuisances: No. discovered 2143, No. abated 1852.

No. of notices served: Informal 426, Statutory 64.

There were no legal proceedings.

Shops and Offices—

		Inspections	Defects and Contraven-	Remedied
(a)	Shops' Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences	...	81	3
(b)	Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, i.e., ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc	...	15	3

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

During the year the Sanitary Inspectors made 7 observations. There were no contraventions of the byelaw which provides a time concession for the emission of black smoke of 2 minutes in the half-hour. This was previous to the instructions by the Ministry of Home Security (Smoke Production Dept.)

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

		No. of Inspections	Notices	Prosecu-
1.	Factories with mechanical power	35	2	—
	Factories without mechanical power	...	...	—
	Other premises	...	—	—

2. Defects found :		Found	Remedied
Sanitary conveniences	{ Insufficient ...	1	1
Other offences	{ Unsuitable ...	10	10

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Particulars of action taken during the year :—

No. of houses disinfested :—

(a) By Hydrogen Cyanide (carried out by Contractor)

(1) Council houses	...	...	...	...	...	8
(2) Other houses	...	...	...	...	...	2

(b) Insecticides.

(1) Council houses	...	...	...	...	...	2
(2) Other houses	...	...	...	...	...	48

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

There are 11 dairy farms in the district with approximately 245 cows. The farms are inspected at frequent intervals for sanitary defects. They are all provided with dairies which have no communication with other buildings.

EXAMINATION OF MILK SAMPLES.

12 samples were examined during the year, 3 of which were bacteriologically unsatisfactory. Tuberclous was found in one of the samples, and appropriate action was taken.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

All premises where food is stored or exposed for sale are inspected at regular intervals. The Government Meat Scheme came into operation on Jan. 14/40, and the slaughter of animals for human consumption in Farnworth ceased on that date, except in case of emergency. Up to Jan. 14th, 149 carcases had been examined in Farnworth. During the year the following food was condemned and surrendered : 139 lbs. beef, 50 lbs. offal, 2 pigs 340 lbs., 7 lambs 420 lbs., 61 lbs. bacon, 720 tins fruit.

(c) ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The County Council are the Authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, and samples are taken by the County Sanitary Inspector in collaboration with the local Sanitary Inspector.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DIPHTHERIA.

10 cases of diphtheria belonging to the district were notified during the year, against an average of 34 for the previous 5 years. There were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN.

Antitoxin is provided by the Council free of charge for patients residing within the district. A supply is always available for medical practitioners, and is supplied in phials of 8,000 units and 1,000 units, the former for curative and the latter for prophylactic purposes.

During 1940 antitoxin to the amount of 104,000 units was issued to medical men.

ACTIVE IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

An immunisation clinic was held weekly during the year, and much propaganda work was undertaken.

The following table shows the number of children who were fully protected during the year:—

Under 1 year	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-6 yrs.	6-7 yrs.	7-8 yrs.	8-9 yrs.
10	32	16	6	6	11	8	2	3
9-10 yrs.	10-11 yrs.	11-12 yrs.	12-13 yrs.	13-14 yrs.	Over 14			Total
1	4	4	1	3	—			107

There were no cases of diphtheria notified in immunised children.

SCARLET FEVER.

During the year 203 cases were notified, against an average of 80 per year for the previous five years. There was one death.

PNEUMONIA.

Of the notifiable varieties 38 cases were reported, while the average number during the previous five years has been 81 per year.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

14 cases were notified during the year, only 3 of which belonged to Farnworth.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

There were 2 cases notified during 1940

SPECIMENS EXAMINED DURING 1940.

NATURE OF SPECIMEN.	No.
Swabs (for diphtheria)	48 (8 positive)
Blood (for typhoid)	17 (12 positive)

The following is a list of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1940 :—

Disease.	No.	
Scarlet fever.	203	
Diphtheria.	11	One of these cases was notified from Townleys Hospital and belonged to Bolton.
Paratyphoid.	14	

PNEUMONIA :

Acute primary.	38	
Puerperal Pyrexia.	14	Only 3 of these were Farnworth cases, the remainder being notified from Townleys Hospital, and belonging to outside districts.
Ophthalmia neonatorum.	2	
Cerebro spinal fever.	1	
Acute poliomyelitis.	2	
Erysipelas.	8	
Measles.	501	
Whooping Cough.	75	

Cases removed to hospital from the district :—

Scarlet fever	82
Diphtheria	8
Paratyphoid	14
Cerebro spinal fever	1

TUBERCULOSIS :

Cases notified :—

Respiratory	15
Non-respiratory	10

The treatment of all cases of tuberculosis is the duty of the County Council.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

1. HEALTH VISITING.

A noteworthy change has been made in the nursing services. Each of the four nurses employed by the Council now carries out the combined duties of the school medical service and of health visiting. This arrangement is working satisfactorily.

2. THE WELFARE CLINIC. As before.

3. ANTENATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINIC.

During the year 34 sessions were held, the Gynæcologist being in attendance.

258 expectant mothers came for consultation and examination, and they made 723 attendances. Of the 258 cases, 66 attended on one occasion only, 55 came twice, 51 three times, 48 four times, 29 five times, 7 six times, 1 seven times, 1 eight times. 114 were expectant for the first time (primiparæ). The ages of the primiparæ are shown in the following table :—

Under 20	20-25	25-30	30-35	35-40	Over 40
15	46	34	17	2	Nil.

All morbid conditions found on examination were given appropriate treatment.

CONFINEMENT HISTORY OF PATIENTS.

By the end of the year 202 of the patients had been confined. The following table gives particulars regarding the confinements :—

	Primiparæ.	Multiparæ.
No. confined	94	108
Confinement at home	54	75
,, ,, Haslam Maternity Home	1	—
,, ,, Townleys Hospital	36	31
,, ,, St. Mary's Hospital	3	2
Vertex presentation	90	106
Breech presentation	3	1
Other	1	1
Labour normal	86	103
Labour normal but prolonged	1	—
Labour induced	1	2
Forceps delivery	4	1
Cæsarian section	2	2
Ruptured perineum	2	1
Adherent placenta	1	—
Condition of mother satisfactory	92	108
,, ,, delayed recovery...	2	—

Condition of child :

Alive and well	...	...	...	88	100
Still-born	...	...	...	4	—
Died within 2 weeks	...	...	...	1	3
Premature	...	...	...	1	5

One case attended the post-natal clinic during the year.

4. CONVALESCENT HOMES. As before.

5. HOME HELPS.

Ten were supplied during the year.

6. MATERNITY CASES.

Arrangements exist with Townleys Hospital, whereby any woman can be admitted for her confinement. Payment is made according to her means. 68 cases were admitted to Townleys during the year.

In addition to the arrangements with Townleys Hospital the Council has made financial arrangements with St. Mary's Hospitals, Manchester, for the reception of difficult cases of labour. Six such cases were admitted during the year.

7. MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no maternal deaths during 1940.

8. EMERGENCY UNIT.

In the case of confinement taking place at home, arrangements have been made with St. Mary's Hospitals for an emergency unit to be provided if the patient is so gravely ill that removal to a hospital would be dangerous. The unit was called to one case during 1940.

9. INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

At the end of the year there were only three cases on the register. They were visited regularly.

10. DENTAL TREATMENT.

Dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers,
for the year 1940.

No. of mothers referred by M.O.H.	...	34
" " " treated	...	32
" " " attendances	...	117
" " " permanent fillings	...	26
" " " extractions	...	127
" " " scalings and polishings	...	2
" " " dentures	...	18
Other treatment to permanent teeth	...	4

Dental treatment for pre-school children, for the year 1940.

No. of children referred by M.O.H.	...	34
" " treated	...	32
" " attendances	...	58
" " of fillings in temporary teeth	...	20
" " temporary extractions	...	58
" " cases given advice	...	4
Other treatment to temporary teeth	...	5

11. TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.

Dr. G. Gordon Mowat, Surgeon to the Ear, Nose and Throat Department at Bolton Royal Infirmary was appointed at the end of 1939 as Aurist to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee and to the Education Committee. He held his first session on the 18th January/40. There were 15 sessions during the year.

10 pre-school children had operative treatment at Bolton Royal Infirmary.

12. MINOR AILMENTS.

63 pre-school children attended the clinic during the year, making in all 497 attendances.

13. ORTHOPÆDICS.

18 pre-school children attended the Orthopædic Clinic during the year, and made 43 attendances. 8 surgical appliances, i.e., boots, irons, etc., were supplied through the Clinic. 2 pre-school children were treated at Biddulph Hospital during 1940.

14. DEFECTIVE VISION.

17 pre-school children were examined by the School Oculist. In 11 cases suitable glasses were prescribed, whilst in 6 cases other treatment was advised.

15. MEDICAL OFFICER'S CONSULTATIONS AT THE CLINIC.

The Medical Officer had 637 consultations at the clinic during the year. Defects were treated.

Summary of work done by Maternity and Child Welfare Department, in 1940 :—

Visits :—First visits	...	...	...	...	445
" " Revisits, under 1 year	...	...	...	...	2221
" " 1-5 years	...	...	...	...	3773
Expectant Mothers :—					
" " First visits	...	...	...	...	146
" " Revisits	...	...	...	...	203

Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	309
Infant Life Protection	...	...	...	10
Special visits	...	...	...	191
			Total	... 7298

Clinic :—No. of Infants under 12 months	...	464
Children between 1 and 5 years	...	501
Total attendances of above two groups	...	5647
Average attendance per session	...	39
Expectant Mothers—Number	...	234
" " Attendances	...	817

Free Supply of Milk, etc. :—

Dried Milk	...	...	...	... 1554 lbs.
Cows' Milk	...	...	...	... 560 gals.
Cod Liver Oil	...	...	...	... 83 lbs.

In July the supply of milk to expectant and nursing mothers, and young children was taken over by the Ministry of Food. The local authority therefore has no further responsibility at the moment for the financing of this scheme.

The usual well known brands of milk are stocked at the clinic and are available to any mother on payment.

